

Grade 8 Middle School Course Offerings

2024-2025 Middle School Course Offerings

Grade 8

1. English 8
2. Algebra 1 or Intermediate Algebra
3. Physical Science
4. Global Studies
5. Physical Education (.5 year)
6. Health (.5 year)
7. *New Art Requirement 1 (.5 year)
8. *New Art Requirement 2 (.5 year)
9. Elective 1 (.5 year) **
10. Elective 2 (.5 year)

Music Elective

(** Would require additional elective slot)

Grade 8

Advanced Band
Advanced Choir
Advanced Orchestra

Art Requirement (Must choose 2)

- Students can choose between a Music Elective (**), Visual Arts 8 and Media Arts 8

*New Electives (choose 2)

Communication Arts 8

- Allows students express ideas through debate, speaking, storytelling and dramatic dialogue.

Environmental Science 8

- Topics will range from plant sciences, forestry, studying lakes and streams and creating urban gardens.

World Language

- Spanish 1A, German 1A, Ojibwemowin 1A (1st semester)
- Spanish 1B, German 1B, Ojibwemowin 1B (2nd semester)

CTE Exploratory Pathway Courses

- Computer Sciences 8
- Family and Consumer Science 8
- Industrial Technology 8

Course Descriptions - Grade 8

Required 8

Course Name	Term Length	Course Description
M044000 English 8	Required (Year long)	<p>This course will provide opportunities for all students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate literal, interpretive, inferential, and evaluative understanding of literary and informational texts • Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions • Write clearly and coherently for a variety of audiences and purposes • Integrate information from a variety of sources to support a claim • Access, analyze, evaluate, and create media • Practice listening and speaking skills • Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions
M105000 Physical Science 8	Required (Year long)	<p>Physical Science introduces students to the sciences of chemistry and physics. The course is designed to help students understand basic chemistry and physics by exploring natural phenomena in a laboratory situation. Students will complete a series of units that focus on the unit's core ideas, practices that engineers and scientists do, and cross cutting concepts that drive higher level thinking. The course will examine the structure of matter and how it interacts with each other through various chemical reactions, energy and energy transfer, the forces found in the natural world, how waves can be used to transfer information and contributions to the scientific world by Minnesota American Indian Tribes and other cultures. The course will examine these natural processes through the investigation of real world phenomena, the use of student built models, student driven experimentation, and student led discussions. The course is fully aligned to the 2019 Minnesota State Science Standards.</p>
M113000 Global Studies	Required (Year long)	<p>Global Studies for eighth grade will provide an integrated look at the world and its people. The course will focus on societies throughout the world past and present. Through the use of geographic information systems, maps, population models, and informational text, students will gain an understanding of the ever-changing nature of global cultures. In addition, students will learn how cultural changes throughout recent history have been influenced by economic, political, and social factors.</p>
M093000 Physical Education Grade 8	Required (One semester)	<p>This course fulfills the MN 8th grade state requirements for Physical Education. It is meant to expand student's knowledge of the components and concepts of MN state standards. Fitness levels will be emphasized through aquatics, physical fitness, and individual/team/lifetime indoor and outdoor activities. Prior positive social behaviors emphasis will also be expanded and developed.</p>
M051001 Health	Required (One semester)	<p>This course provides students with the knowledge and skills of health and wellness core concepts, analyzing influences, accessing information,</p>

interpersonal communication, decision-making and goal setting skills, health-enhancing behaviors, and health and wellness advocacy skills. Instructional content will include personal, mental, emotional and social health.

Topics will include:

- First aid injury prevention and safety
- Nutrition
- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Drugs
- Growth and development

Required Math 8 (Select One)

Verify with your counselor before selecting the appropriate course.

Course Name	Term Length	Course Description
M074100 Algebra 1	Year long	<p>Algebra 1 can serve as an alternative to Intermediate Algebra. Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating equivalent numerical and algebraic expressions and using algebraic properties to evaluate expressions • Comparing, classifying, and representing real numbers • Understanding the concept of functions and distinguish between linear and nonlinear functions • Representing linear functions with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, and graphs • Using slope and intercepts of linear equations • Solving linear equations and inequalities • Solving systems of linear equations in two variables symbolically, graphically and numerically • Using the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse • Applying the properties of positive and negative integer exponents • Interpreting data and drawing conclusions using scatterplots and approximate lines of best fit
M181001 and M181002 Intermediate Algebra	Year long (Counts toward high school math credit)	<p>Intermediate Algebra can serve as an alternative to Algebra 1. Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing, classifying, and representing real numbers • Understanding the concept of functions, and identifying important features of functions • Recognizing common functions in real-world and mathematical situations (linear, quadratic, absolute value, exponential, radical, and rational functions) • Representing common functions with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, and graphs • Using slope and intercepts of linear equations • Understanding, interpreting and using equations and inequalities involving common functions • Solving linear equations and inequalities • Solving quadratic, absolute value, radical, and rational functions • Representing mathematical situations using equations and inequalities involving common functions • Solving systems of linear equations in two variables symbolically, graphically and numerically • using the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse Interpreting data and drawing conclusions using scatterplots and approximate lines of best fit • Generating equivalent algebraic expressions involving polynomials and radicals; using algebraic properties to evaluate expressions <p>Note: Intermediate Algebra is a high school level course, taught at a faster</p>

pace than Algebra 1. The content includes 8th grade MN Math Standards and high school algebra standards, such as linear algebra and quadratics. Successful completion of Intermediate Algebra places a student on the path to take Calculus as a senior.

Required Arts 8 (Select Two)

Course Name	Term Length	Course Description
M011300 Visual Arts 8	One semester	Using Visual Arts concepts and tools, students apply critical and creative thinking skills, develop a sense of personal style, explore their ideas, and create and complete artworks through practice and new methods. Students will explore techniques and develop skills in a variety of mediums, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and ceramics.
M011700 Media Arts 8	One semester	Grade 8 Media Arts students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and media arts through their own imagination, creative processes, and experimentation through stop motion animation, the moving image, cartooning, object manipulation and photography. Students will experiment with movie genres and use computer science applications to design.
Music 8 M081200 Advanced Band M083200 Advanced Orchestra M082200 Advanced Choir	Year long	<u>M081200 Advanced Band:</u> This course is an elective for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Band or can demonstrate they have achieved a skill level equal to students who have completed Intermediate Band. This class involves the extensive study and application of music fundamentals through exposure to a broad spectrum of band literature with emphasis on performance. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Students who successfully complete Advanced Band will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school band program. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Band or demonstration of Intermediate Band skills is required.
		<u>M083200 Advanced Orchestra:</u> Advanced Orchestra is an elective class for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Orchestra or can demonstrate that they have achieved a skill level equal to students who have completed Intermediate Orchestra. This class involves the extensive study and application of music fundamentals through exposure to a broad spectrum of orchestra literature with emphasis on performance. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Students who successfully complete Advanced Orchestra will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school orchestra program. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Orchestra or demonstration of Intermediate Orchestra skills is required.
		<u>M082200 Advanced Choir:</u> This course involves extensive study and application of music fundamentals and skills through exposure to a broad spectrum of choral literature with emphasis on performance. Individual practice is recommended. Students who successfully complete Advanced Choir will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school choral program. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Choir or demonstration of Intermediate Choir skills is recommended but not required.

Exploratory Courses 8

(We cannot guarantee placement in your top choice)

Course Name	Term Length	Course Description
M011700 Media Arts 8	One semester	Students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and media arts through their own imagination, creative processes, and experimentation through stop motion animation, the moving image, cartooning, object manipulation and photography. Students will experiment with movie genres and use computer science applications to design.
M011300 Visual Arts 8	One semester	Students will use Visual Arts concepts and tools while applying critical and creative thinking skills, develop a sense of personal style, explore their ideas, and create and complete artworks through practice and new methods. Students will explore techniques and develop skills in a variety of mediums, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and ceramics.
M046110 Communication Arts 8	One semester	Students will engage in collaborative activities that allow for creative and individual expression of ideas through debate, speaking, storytelling, and dramatic dialogue. The course will also include opportunities for students to evaluate mass media, mediate, and problem solve with discussion while presenting ideas in diverse media and formats. This elective course provides students with a deeper exploration of the Listening, Speaking, Viewing and Exchanging Ideas standard within English-Language Arts.
M021301 Computer Science 8	One semester	This course will expand on skills developed in 6th grade Computer Science, including a deeper exploration of AI, app development, animations, and gaming.
M107000 Environmental Science 8	One semester	This elective course is designed to introduce you to topics and concepts surrounding the environment. Topics will range from plant sciences, forestry, studying our lakes and streams, and creating urban gardens. This elective course will provide you the opportunity to study the aquatic environment within our many lakes and streams. We will also explore how the changing climate has impacted the environment and what can be done to offset the changing climate. This course is designed for any student as well as the student who may want to take environmental courses in high school. A lot of this course is taught outside so you will need to be prepared to enjoy the outdoors and dress appropriately.
M063011 Industrial Technology 8	One semester	This course is designed to build on and advance what skills and knowledge students have learned in the 7th grade Industrial Technology course. Students will gain a more advanced understanding of skills and processes dealing with industrial technology, manufacturing sciences, engineering/design process, technical drawing, 3D modeling, CAD design, 3D printing, wood production (design and fabrication), as well as technical science, math and reading). Students will have an opportunity to design and fabricate more advanced projects than the previous 7th grade course.
M034001 Family and Consumer Science 8	One semester	FCS 8 is also a semester-long elective course offered for 8th grade students. This course will further develop skills and knowledge involving food preparation, culinary careers in food production and services, healthy meal planning, global food influences and skills needed for the workforce. This course will encourage students to explore how they can make a positive impact on themselves, their families and the community through individual growth, relationships and connections to the community outside of school.
M240001 *German 1A	One semester	Curious about German? German 1A is an introduction to the German language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the German-speaking world! Upon completion of German 1A the student is eligible to take German 1B in middle school or German 1 in high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)

M240002 *German 1B	One semester Prerequisite German 1A	German 1B is a deeper introduction to the German language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of German 1B the student is eligible to test into German 2 in the high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)
M241301 *Spanish 1A	One semester	Curious about Spanish? Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Spanish-speaking world! Upon completion of Spanish 1A the student is eligible to take Spanish 1B in middle school or Spanish 1 in high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)
M241302 *Spanish 1B	One semester Prerequisite Spanish 1A	Spanish Level 1B is a deeper introduction to the Spanish language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of Spanish 1B the student is eligible to test into Spanish 2 in the high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)
M241501 *Ojibwemowin 1A	One semester	Curious about Ojibwemowin? Ojibwemowin 1A is an introduction to the Ojibwe language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Ojibwe-speaking world! Upon completion of Ojibwemowin 1a the student is eligible to take Ojibwemowin 1b in middle school or Ojibwemowin 1 in high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)
M241502 *Ojibwemowin 1B	One semester Prerequisite Ojibwemowin 1A	Ojibwemowin 1B is a deeper introduction to the Ojibwe language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of Ojibwemowin 1B the student is eligible to test into Ojibwemowin 2 in the high school. (No High School Credit is available for this course.)

***World Languages Note:** *Students may take a language 1A in 7th then proceed to the same language 1B in 8th grade. They may also choose to try a new language 1A in 8th grade. No high school credit given to middle school language. All students will be required to take a placement test when registering for advanced high school language courses.*